

March 6, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose bringing 98 back. After having been on the Board of Equalization I know it's very difficult to administrate what people think is equal. When you're going to segregate out a certain portion of people who have not been keeping up their property this makes the job even more difficult. If this were just to help some poor people or a certain area in Omaha or Lincoln, or whatever city you were talking about, this would be one thing. This relates, however, to all property. I don't think it can be administered even if we pass it. I oppose the bill and hope we vote it down.

PRESIDENT: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would like to encourage your support of Senator Lewis' motion to reconsider our action on LB 98. I think that Senator Cavanaugh has perceptively an accurately pointed out that this type of approach is the only way we can use to save a lot of these dilapidated and deteriorated residential properties. I think that in many of the rural areas around the state we have some of the best examples of what is happening to these properties and how we really have no other choice but to try to do something like this in order to save them. We have properties that are being lost. The property tax system itself completely discourages anyone from renovating them and from keeping them suitable for housing. I think the alternative to not try to do something like this is simply to face the fact that we're going to lose these houses, we're going to lose the tax revenue that comes off of them. I think that this particular proposal offers us an opportunity not only to save some rural housing that could very deffinitely be occupied, but also in the end to produce more tax revenue for the counties and for the State of Nebraska. I think this is a bill which deals with some of the basic faults of our tax system. There is no question but what it would not be an easy thing to administer, but I'm confident that it could be done. I know that it has been done in other states. I urge your support.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President and fellow members, I rise to support Senator Lewis' revival of LB 98. I worked, Mr. President, in the city government besides as City Councilman in Omaha and I must speak about Omaha because I know it better. I was in the position to contact, I suppose, hundreds of people about their taxes and about improving their homes, about rehabilitation. This again would give us one more tool to work with. Those people that I had the opportunity to talk to, one of the biggest bugaboo's was I don't want to do anything about my property because the minute I take out a permit I'm going to have to pay more taxes. This would simply give those people a five year rest. Yes, but on that improvement only. They would continue to pay the taxes that they had been paying and any rises in taxes would be for them to deal with also. But for this improvement alone it would give a respite on that improvement. I